

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 IO-10

NEA-09 EB-07 EA-10 /089 W

----- 110866

R 101605Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7978

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS MOSCOW 3208

USIA FOR IOP/M

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJ: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY MARCH 9-10

1. WEEKEND PRESS TAKES NOTE OF THE SECRETARY'S TALKS IN EGYPT AND HIS INTENDED VISIT TO SYRIA AND ISRAEL. ASWAN-DATELEINED TASS STORY (PRAVDA MARCH 9) REPORTED THE SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL FOR TALKS WITH PRESIDENT SADAT, AND TASS STORY FROM CARIO (PRAVDA MARCH 10) REPORTS CONCLUSION OF THE SECRETARY'S TALKS IN EGYPT. ACCORDING TO CAIRO TASS STORY, PRESIDENT SADAT TOLD THE PRESS IT WILL BE BETTER TO TALK ABOUT THE RESULTS OF THE TALKS AND POSSIBILITIES FOR SETTLEMENT AFTER THE SECRETARY VISITS ISRAEL. SECRETARY IS CITED AS SAYING THE TALKS REVIEWED ALL ELEMENTS OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. STORY GOES ON TO QUOTE FAHMY THAT EGYPTIAN POLICY IS AIMED AT FULL SETTLEMENT WHICH WILL GUARANTEE THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS. TASS STORY ALSO REPLAYS MENA REPORT THAT EGYPT DEMANDED THE RETURN OF THE SINAI PASSES AND THE ABU RHODEIS OIL FIELDS IN TALKS WITH THE SECRETARY.

2. COMMENTING ON THE SECRETARY'S TRIP AND THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION PRAVDA'S WEEKLY INTERNATIONAL REVIEW (MARCH 9 BY VISHNEVSKIY) TAKES NEGATIVE LINE ON STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH AND "PARTIAL
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SETTLEMENTS." CERTAIN ORGANS OF WESTERN PROPAGANDA, VISHNEVSKIY SAYS, ARE TRYING TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE OF "CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM" ABOUT THE SECRETARY'S TRIP. THEY ARE ADVERTISING IN EVERY WAY THE "TACTIC" OF STEP-BY-STEP "AS THOUGH IT IS LEADING TO A PEACE SETTLEMENT." HOWEVER, VISHNEVSKIY CLAIMS, "FREEDOM-LIVING ARAB COUNTRIES" ARE NOT HURRYING TO SHARE SUCH OPTIMISM. THE TACTIC OF PARTIAL SETTLEMENTS HAS BEEN ADOPTED MORE THAN ONCE WITHOUT SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE TOWARD A JUST POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, HE CLAIMS, AND "ATTENTIVE OBSERVERS," NOT WITHOUT BASIS, BASIS, THINK THE STEP-BY-STEP TACTIC IS AIMED AT DIVIDING THE ARABS. THIS, VISHNEVSKIY ASSERTS, IS SEEN IN RABIN'S STATEMENT THAT ISRAEL WILL NOT EVACUATE THE GOLAN HEIGHTS AND IN ISRAEL'S REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE WITH "REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PALESTINIANS." AT THE SAME TIME, VISHNEVSKIY CONCLUDES, ISRAEL IS ARMING INTENSELY AND IS MAKING MATERIAL PREPARATIONS FOR AGGRESSION. IN THIS SITUATION, VISHNEVSKIY CLAIMS, WORLD OPINION IS STRENGTHENING ITS CALL FOR THE QUICKEST RESUMPTION OF MEPC.

3. U.S.-FOREIGN. POLITICAL OBSERVER YURIY ZHUKOV DEVOTED THE MAIN PORTION OF HIS Q. AND A. TELEVISION PROGRAM (MARCH 9) ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO SOVIET TRADE WITH CAPITALIST STATES AND TO U.S.-SOVIET TRADE RELATIONS (DETAILED REPORT SEPTEL). ZHUKOV DENIED THAT TRADE WITH THE WEST ENTAILED DANGERS OF SUDDEN INTERFERENCE FROM OUTSIDE LIKE THAT HE ATTRIBUTED TO THE U.S. TRADE ACT. "THE USSR ALREADY HAS MFN WITH OTHER STATES," HE NOTED. ON U.S. SPECIFICALLY, ZHUKOV SAID MOST AMERICANS AGREE WITH THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO PURSUE DETENTE, BUT ACTUAL ACTIVITIES OF THE U.S. ARE OFTEN CONTRADICTORY (E.G., THE U.S., HE SAID, HAS NOT ALWAYS FULFILLED AGREEMENTS). NONETHELESS, ZHUKOV CLAIMED CONGRESS SOONER OR LATER WILL REALIZE HOW WILLINGLY OTHER NATIONS TAKE SOVIET ORDERS FOR THEIR PRODUCTS. CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS ARE ALREADY CONCERNED. THE USSR FOR ITS PART, ZHUKOV CONCLUDED, WILL CONTINUE TO GRANT SIGNIFICANCE TO U.S. TRADE. IT IS ASSUMED, HE SAID, THAT THE GROUP OF SENATORS SHORTLY TO VISIT THE USSR WILL WANT TO DISCUSS U.S.-SOVIET TRADE.

4. U.S. POLICY TOWARD ASIA RECEIVES CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION IN THE PRESS. THE THRUST OF MOST COMMENT IS DEVOTED TO DIVISIONS UNCLASSIFIED

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IN U.S. OPINION ABOUT FURTHER AID TO VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA. STREL'NIKOV FROM WASHINGTON (PRAVDA MARCH 9) REPORTS THERE IS STRONG U.S. PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL OPINION AGAINST FURTHER AID TO THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT. THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION EFFORT, HE SAYS, IS EVOKING MEMORIES OF MAY 1970 AND AMERICANS ARE SAYING "ENOUGH." PRAVDA'S WEEKLY REVIEW, IN SIMILAR VEIN, SAYS MANY OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON ARE ASKING WITH CONCERN WHETHER THE

PENTAGON HAS FAILED TO LEARN FROM PAST MISTAKES. REVIEW ALLEGES, HOWEVER, THAT THE PENTAGON IN "TEXAS STYLE" IS CONTEMPLATING LANDING MARINES IN CAMBODIA.

5. U.S. DOMESTIC. PRESS HAS USUAL SERIES OF NEGATIVE REPORTS ON THE AMERICAN DOMESTIC SCENE. PRAVDA'S RUSAKOV REPORTS THAT 80,000 NEW YORK STATE RESIDENTS WILL LOSE THEIR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS AT THE END OF THE MONTH. TASS STORY (PRAVDA MARCH 9) REPORTS THAT U.S. UNEMPLOYMENT HAS REACHED 8.2 PERCENT AND IS EVEN HIGHER IN OTHER KEY SECTORS. ON OTHER MATTERS, PRAVDA (MARCH 10) HAS A BRIEF TASS ITEM ABOUT THE ATTACK ON PANAM'S NEW YORK OFFICES BY "HOLLIGANIZING ZIONIST ELEMENTS." PRAVDA CORRESPONDENT KURDYUMOV REPORTS THAT THE METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE IS IN DANGER OF FINANCIAL COLLAPSE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, PRESS SUMMARIES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW03208
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750084-0232
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750366/aaaachua.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUN 2003 by BrownAM>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2004 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY MARCH 9-10
TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, XF, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006